

On rollcall vote No. 379, under the bill H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 380, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall vote No. 381, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 382, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall vote No. 383, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall vote No. 384, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall vote No. 385, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 386, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall vote No. 387, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall vote No. 388, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 389, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 390, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 391, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 392, I would have voted “no.”

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined my colleague, Mr. MESSER, to introduce the Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act, legislation which will ensure useful information is easily accessible, deliver data that includes the entire college population, and improve coordination between Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, students and families must wade through massive and often conflicting amounts of information in order to make informed college decisions. The Higher Education Act, HEA, alone requires 26 different categories of information be available, and there are many additional State and Federal requirements.

Our bill will streamline the overwhelming maze of information with a consumer-tested College Dashboard. The College Dashboard will provide students with key information, enrollment, completion, net price, and average loan debt and Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data.

With college costs steadily rising, prospective students need to make informed decisions about their future. The Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act will help them do just that.

WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is our job to work on behalf of the American people, and in H.R. 4923, I am

very pleased to note that two Jackson Lee amendments passed that I think will expand the opportunities for small businesses and promote the environment.

One amendment, of course, increased funding for the Office of Minority Economic Impact to be able to reach out to small businesses, MWBEs, in order to create jobs, a challenge that the American people asked us to meet.

My second amendment that was accepted in a bipartisan manner reprograms funds for the Department of Energy's departmental administration to increase support for environmental justice. That is very important to very many sites in the 18th Congressional District, from northeast to southeast.

As you well know, Mr. Speaker, I also was able to get an amendment in the bill dealing with the Department of the Interior and set up an office on minority business and contracting and outreach for jobs.

We must create more jobs. We must help create more jobs, and leading out by this Nation to create more jobs is very important.

I am also pleased that the dredging funding that the Houston Port needed was put in this bill, joined by my colleagues from the Houston delegation. Now the Houston Port will be able to continue to serve as one of the largest ports in the world.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that this legislation had these elements in it. I look forward to the bill going to the Senate so that we can come back and vote for this bill.

FIREFIGHTER DANIEL GROOVER, FIRE STATION 104, HOUSTON, TEXAS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when there is a blaze, when there is a fire, when there is an explosion, when someone has an emergency medical problem, the firefighters rush in. While others flee danger, the firefighters, with sirens, red lights, horns, red-and-white trucks, charge into the jaws and midst of danger. Sometimes, the danger is overwhelming and firefighters are injured and killed.

Yesterday afternoon, with temperatures approaching 100 degrees outside, in an area called Forest Cove, near the San Jacinto River in Houston, Texas, the fire alarm sounded at the fire station. A house fire then turned into two alarms. The firefighters rushed and battled a fire in the hot, humid Texas summer heat.

Firefighter Daniel Groover was on the second floor of the house when he collapsed in the heat. He was pulled from the blaze by other firefighters, but later Daniel died.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel, like his dad, was a career firefighter.

Groover, a 21-year veteran of the Houston Fire Department, lived in

Spring, Texas. He was 46 years old. Daniel was married to Elia and had three sons.

Chief Terry Garrison said of Groover:

Firefighters risk a lot to save lives, and that's what Daniel was doing.

Daniel and his fellow firefighters are a remarkable breed, a rare breed—the American breed.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that all people are created equal, but a few become firefighters. One of those was Daniel Groover.

And that's just the way it is.

This is a list of the other Houston firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty in the last 12 months:

Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, 35, of Station 51;

Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, 41, of Station 51;

Firefighter EMT Robert Garner, 29, of Station 68;

Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan, 24, of Station 68.

□ 2130

THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALMON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 15 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, “these are the times that try men's souls.”

Having been to the border a couple of weeks ago, going to the border tomorrow and next weekend, I know from my experiences there that it is a traumatic time for so many. But I keep coming back to what a West African told me a few years ago when my wife and I were in West Africa with mercy ships, there in the harbor in Togo, caring for people there.

A number of the West Africans had wanted to meet before I left. They knew I was a Member of Congress. And the oldest, a very wise man, after we had a lovely time visiting, said, Well, we wanted to meet with you so that we could give you a message to take back to Washington. He said, we were so excited here in Africa when you elected your first black President of the United States. He said, but since that happened, we have seen America get weaker and weaker. And basically, he was saying that we know, as Christians, where we go when we die. But our chance of having peace in this life can only come if America is strong. So he implored me to go back and share here in Washington that Africa wants a strong America, that Africans who love peace want and need a strong America.

When I was in Nigeria recently visiting with heartbroken, devastated mothers of daughters who were kidnapped by radical Islamists, they wept as they would talk about their experiences. Three girls who had been captured and had been able to escape, their tales of the horrors of radical